

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

38

CONFIDENTIAL

Classification

Control: 5654

Rec'd: January 12, 1961
2:37 a.m.

Action

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FROM: Ankara

Info

L

TO: Secretary of State

EUR

NEA

NO: 869, January 12, 8 a.m.

INR

CIA

NSA

RMR

SENT DEPARTMENT 869, REPEATED INFORMATION BEIRUT 55

Gist DEPTTEL 822 reported to Foreign Office official concerned (Oran) who commented as follows:

His comments represent his views only. He is not technician. No GOT position yet formed. Problem under discussion by concerned ministries. USSR presented request informally and mentioned only Beirut as destination. No further details given either as respects last stop USSR or why maintenance refueling and repair facilities requested. GOT has not asked USSR for additional details and at this preliminary phase does not intend to do so. Would welcome valid excuse for refusing request in entirety but still feels must grant overflight rights under Montreux convention from Black Sea to Mediterranean. For security reasons GOT will not grant route via Straits; alternatively feels obligated grant route Inebolu Ankara Silikke which is authorized international route and route USSR requested.

Foreign Office would welcome any further comments Department re validation for complete refusal USSR request. Our information GOT treating problem very confidentially and our contact limited to above-mentioned Foreign Office official.

As indicated Beirut telegram 620 latter's telegram 574 referred one time overflight. Ankara telegrams 810 and 792 refer scheduled flights as does this message.

COWLES

HEK:ER

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